

The Lemon Grove REVIEW

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Vol. 48, No. 38

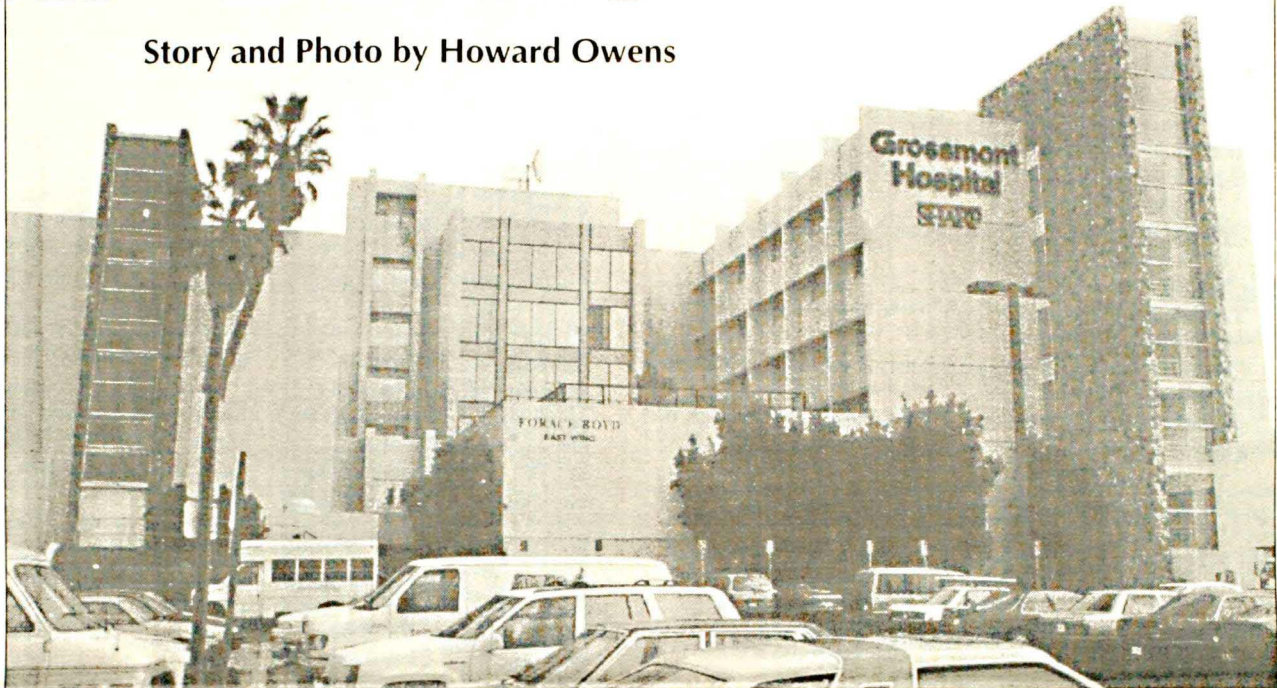
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Thursday, February 1, 1996 25c

SHARP DEALS

Story and Photo by Howard Owens

Sharp HealthCare's announcement of a new partnership with a for-profit hospital company has observers wondering and worrying about the future of East County's economic anchor.



The future of Grossmont Hospital isn't just an issue of medical care for East County residents — there are other hospitals in the area that could pick up the slack if Grossmont closed — it's one of economic impact.

Grossmont is the region's largest employer. Its 1,451 employees earn \$72 million a year in salary and benefits. The East County Economic Development Council (ECEDC) already knows that 30 percent of every employee's discretionary income is spent near the workplace. Additionally, many Grossmont employees live in East County, meaning they spend even more money locally.

There has never been a study of Grossmont's economic impact on the region, but according to Deanna Weeks, executive director of the ECEDC, it is undoubtedly significant.

"Grossmont is hugely important to East County," said Weeks. "It's not only the largest employer, there are also a lot of spin-off jobs in the area."

Currently, Sharp HealthCare has a 30-year lease to manage Grossmont. Grossmont is owned by the taxpayers of East County. Both Sharp and Grossmont are non-profit organizations.

But Sharp announced near the end of last year that it will enter into a partnership with Columbia/HCA, a for-profit, national hospital company with a reputation for emphasizing the bottomline.

The Sharp-Columbia deal has many observers wondering about the future of Grossmont.

Because of the importance of Grossmont to the local economy, the La Mesa Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a meeting about the hospital's future at 7 p.m., Feb. 21, at the Wells Fargo Bank in Grossmont Center.

It's already been determined that Grossmont can't be and won't be a part of the Sharp-Columbia deal. As a taxpayer-owned facility, it can't be sold, at least not without voter approval.

But that doesn't mean that the Sharp deal won't have a significant impact on Grossmont. Sharp officials say the deal can

only benefit Grossmont, but some of the elected officials charged with overseeing the hospital are skeptical.

Jim Stieringer, president of the Grossmont Hospital District Board of Directors, an elected official foresees one scenario that might spell Grossmont's wreck and ruin.

"Sharp will be in a position to operate Grossmont to Grossmont's detriment," said Stieringer. "Sharp-Columbia will be able to improve its profit line by transferring indigent and uninsured patients to Grossmont. Then when Grossmont is out of business at some point, it will be removed as a competitor."

The power Sharp, as a profit-making entity, could have over the non-profit Grossmont could constitute a conflict of interest Stieringer said, and if district lawyers agree, that potential conflict will allow Grossmont to break its lease with Sharp.

Sharp officials said it's illogical to think Sharp would purposely sap Grossmont's profits.

"We have explained this in several forums and various meetings," said Tom Spindler, vice president of hospital operations for Sharp. "The nature of our agreement between Sharp and Grossmont is that if Grossmont starts losing tons of money, we are the deep pockets, we are financially liable. Sharp is financial liable if Grossmont goes bankrupt."

Steve Horrell, who heads up the non-elected board of directors who oversee the business side of Grossmont, said he is convinced Grossmont is in good hands.

"We have asked the same question (as Stieringer)," said Horrell. "We were assured that any agreement with Columbia would protect Grossmont."

Sharp officials recognize the value of Grossmont to East County, said Spindler, a Jamul resident, and don't want to see it decline.

"The vast majority of Sharp executives live in East County," said Spindler. "We have a stake in how well East County does."

The deal between Sharp and Columbia is not final, but a letter of intent has been signed by both parties and negotiations toward a final agreement are continuing.

The usual Columbia strategy, according to Peter Boland, a consultant in Texas who specializes in the business side of health care, is for the company to enter a market and

set up a strong network of hospitals and physicians in an attempt to drive down costs.

Columbia's goal is to become the low-cost provider of choice for Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) and other health insurers, Boland said.

They can lower costs by centralizing administrative functions and they have the financial and operational expertise, Boland said, to show a hospital how it can cut costs.

"They have a market discipline and cost accounting procedure that is new to many hospitals," Boland said. "Rest assured, Columbia has cost targets and their management is tasked to hit those targets."

That's how they create shareholder value."

Spindler downplays Columbia's expertise and he doesn't foresee any dramatic changes in how Sharp does business.

"We will have discussions with them about what they do and what we do," said Spindler. "I don't think in every instance that they have a better way of running hospitals. I'm sure there are things we're going to learn from Columbia and I'm sure there are things they are going to learn from us."

If Grossmont remains in the Sharp fold for the next 25 years, neither Sharp nor Grossmont officials see much changing at the hospital. There have been significant additions to the hospital in the last five years, including a state-of-the-art birthing center and a five-story medical center. Officials say there isn't much else that needs to be done to the hospital.

Administrators, however, will continue to look for ways to cut costs, and certainly, Spindler said, the affiliation with Columbia will help both Sharp and Grossmont save money on supplies and equipment.

"What we anticipate, but haven't worked out the details on, is that those purchasing types of advantages that we receive, Grossmont can participate in those cost savings. We need to have Columbia's agreement so the hospital can buy through those kinds of avenues."

Grossmont's affiliation with Sharp has never been popular with some doctors and local officials, but George Hurst, an elected district director, doesn't think the relationship has been all bad.

"I think the financial performance has been very good," said Hurst, who served on the board when the merger with Sharp was approved five years ago. "You have to compare the financial performance against previous years. We were seeing profits before the affiliation starting to fall and we suspected they would continue to fall. By affiliating, through economies of scale, we

Continued on page 8

The power Sharp, as a profit-making entity, could have over the non-profit Grossmont could constitute a conflict of interest.

— Concern Expressed by Jim Stieringer Board of Directors

Lemon Grove Sheriff Log

Dec. 9, 1995

7600 blk. Broadway St. Petty theft. Purse/DL/SS/Chs. \$42 value.

Dec. 10, - Dec. 30, 1995

1500 blk. La Corta St. Residential burglary. Power tools. \$660 value.

Dec. 25-26, 1995

7800 blk. Longdale Dr. Auto theft. '70 Ply. BTM. \$1,500 value.

Dec. 27, 1995

1500 blk. Madera St. Petty theft. Bicycle. \$129 value.

Dec. 28, 1995

7500 blk. Broadway. Attempted vehicle burglary.

1300 blk. Skyline Dr. Commercial burglary. Lap top computer. \$700 value.

Dec. 30, 1995

2500 blk. Cypress Ave. Auto theft. '78 Dat. P/U. \$300 value.

Dec. 31, 1995-Jan. 2, 1996

1600 blk. Watwood Rd. Residential burglary. VCR/lamp. \$290 value.

Jan. 2, 1996

3200 blk. Lemon Grove Ave. Auto theft. '88 Honda Crs. \$4,800 value.

3200 blk. Lemon Grove Ave. Strong-arm robbery. Cash. merchandise. keys. \$517.71 value.

2000 blk. El Prado. Auto theft. '91 Ford. \$5,000 value.

2200 blk. Ravenwood Dr. Auto theft. '90 Nissan 300ZX. \$15,000 value.

7700 blk. Palm St. Commercial burglary. 18 pack Budweiser. \$11.35 value.

Jan. 7, 1996

7000 blk. Broadway Ave. Auto theft. '86 Honda Spree. \$500 value.

7000 blk. Broadway. Strong arm robbery. Cash. \$300 value.

Jan. 7-8, 1996

8000 blk. Broadway. Grand theft. Tire balancer. \$5,000 value.

8300 blk. Blossom Hill Ter. Vehicle Burglary. Phone/speakers. \$165 value.

2000 blk. Siegle Dr. Vehicle Burglary. Stereo/spks/amp. \$1,100 value.

Jan. 8, 1996

7500 blk. Broadway. Petty theft. Smoke detector.-Recovr. \$18.36 value.

8200 blk. Broadway. Auto theft. '83 Toy. Cor. \$4,400 value.

Jan. 9, 1996

1700 blk. San Altos. Auto theft. '77 Toy Cel. \$1,000 value.

1600 blk. San Altos. Auto theft. '79 Buick Rgl. \$3,500 value.

Jan. 9-10, 1996

6900 blk. Federal Blvd. Commercial burglary. Television. \$295 value.

8200 blk. Broadway. Commercial burglary. Items taken and value unknown.

Jan. 11, 1996

1500 blk. San Altos. Auto theft. '79 Pont. AM. \$1,000 value.

Jan. 10-11, 1996

7400 blk. Broadway. Petty theft. Flex. conduit. \$300 value.

Lemon Grove Fire Log

Jan. 19, 1996, through Jan. 25, 1996

8200 blk. Mt. Vernon St. High blood pressure.

2200 blk. Massachusetts Ave. Fall.

3500 blk. Grove St. Head injury.

Massachusetts Ave./Broadway. Vehicle accident.

8500 blk. Blossom Ln. Fall.

3200 blk. Citrus St. Illegal burn.

1900 blk. 69th St. Traffic accident.

8100 blk. Broadway. Difficulty breathing.

2700 blk. Skyline Dr. Vehicle vs. Structure/residential.

3200 blk. Lemon Grove Ave. Fall.

Lemon Grove Ave./Cypress Ave. Fall.

7800 blk. Broadway. Vomiting blood.

7900 blk. Palm St. Alarms ringing-commercial.

2600 blk. Lindholm Ln. Seizure.

3200 blk. College Pl. Dumpster Fire.

Hwy 94/Massachusetts Ave. Vehicle accident freeway.

7300 blk. Goodman Ln. Fall.

7800 blk. Central Ave. Vaginal bleeding.

3200 blk. Main St. Evaluate for the Sheriff.

7700 blk. Palm St. Headache.

8200 blk. Golden Ave. Chest pains.

2200 blk. Morose St. Difficulty breathing.

3400 blk. Golden View Ter. Difficulty breathing.

7000 blk. Casa Ln. Commercial/industrial fire.

7500 blk. San Miguel Ave. Fall.

2800 blk. Lemon Grove Ave. Incoherent.

1800 blk. Ensenada St. Multifamily residential fire.

3100 blk. Florine Dr. Chest pains.

1600 blk. Angelus Ave. Difficulty breathing.

7600 blk. Broadway. Child locked in auto.

College Ave./Federal Blvd. Bus accident.

1600 blk. Colfax Dr. Suicide/attempted suicide.

7900 blk. Palm St. Vehicle fire.

WEATHER

The following information was provided by the Lemon Grove Fire Department.

		High	Low
Jan.	22	57	44
Jan.	22	63	40
Jan.	23	63	38
Jan.	24	63	38
Jan.	25		
Jan.	26	66	46
Jan.	27	65	43

Lemon Grove Almanac

1994 Population: 25,100

Incorporated: 1977

Area: 3.75 sq. mi.

Median income: \$34,399

Mayor: Bob Burns

Council: Thomas Clabby

Craig Lake

Dwight Shelley

Mary Teresa Sessom

City Manager: Doug Yount

Planning Director: Jim Butler

Attorney: Gloria McLean

City Clerk: Christine Taub

Sheriff's Capt.: Yolanda Collins

Fire Chief: William Wright

Congressional district:

52nd - Duncan Hunter

State Senate district:

40th - Steve Peace

State Assembly district:

77th - Steve Baldwin

Supervisory district:

2nd - Dianne Jacob

1993 taxable sales: \$1.47 million

Libraries: 1

Post offices: 1

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B Words

Personal comments from Mayor Bob Burns

Last year's Insights 95 with Colin Powell and Elisabeth Dole was such a pleasant experience that when Success 1996 came along, I signed up. It proved to be as much a thrill, and hearing such as Lou Holtz, Barbara Bush, Dave Dravecky, and Charlton Heston was even better.

These seminars are basically motivational in nature, but the messages of morality, responsibility, honesty and esteem break through with impressive vigor. The courage of Dravecky, the compassion of Mrs. Bush, the striving for excellence of Coach Holtz, and the patriotism of "Moses" Heston, are all just more heartwarming in today's tumultuous scene.

About half of the program was devoted to marketing, selling, and making things better. This applies to business, to relationships, and to self-examinations that all relate to success. One of the quotes that I thought so special was "You can have everything you want if you just help enough people get what they want." I thought that relating some of these bits of advice might be valuable to share with you.

Lou Holtz deplored the state of society today in saying that we have emphasized "rights and privileges" while discounting "obligations and responsibilities." His football allegories depicted the manner in which Notre Dame teams parallel real life. His philosophy is that one should be trustworthy, committed to be the best they can be, and be a caring individual. He asks no more of his team or himself.

Dave Dravecky is pleased with the memories and the pride of his accomplishments as an athlete, but of infinitely more value are his relationships with family and his fellow man. Courage is the name of this man, and appreciation is his life. He thinks of the world as his oyster. He says that his wife was the grit that over time became his pearl, whose support brought him through his ordeal. His message and his bright attitude on life are most inspiring. He said, "It's OK to stumble along the way but you must have the will to continue to walk."

Barbara Bush is caught up on her literacy program. This classy lady just has to be the most altruistic, the more respected, and the most all-around wonderful first lady who has ever resided in the White House. Talk about a standing ovation, and that was even before she began to speak.

Charlton Heston is a great patriot and is also a humble portrayal of great personages. His roles have provided him with vast knowledge of history in his preparation for the parts. His stand on the various political issues is always very clear, and they are tempered with a fervor and conviction that projects his sincerity and compassion for the land that he loves.

The most dynamic speaker of the long day was Mr. Zig Ziglar. This man's middle name has to be Motivation, and his drive was to "make life better." He points out that wherever you are is the center of the world. And it is not important as to what is out there, but what is within yourself is what matters. The key is not what happens to you, but how you handle it.

Heritage has nothing to do with success. It is what you are that is the issue. He listed many things that relate to money, and said that while we like the things that money will buy, we love what it won't buy. The point is that friends, peace of mind, good family relationships, and hope are the really important things in life.

This was a stimulating day of both looking into a mirror as well as an evaluation of what is really important in life. It was the golden rule and the ten commandments, and the realization that by helping others you help yourself beyond "our wildest imagination. It all seems so simple when these learned individuals explain it, and so difficult to understand why it is not practised more.

Worship Directory

**LEMON GROVE
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**
2770 Glebe Road • Lemon Grove
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10:15 a.m.

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8086 BROADWAY
LEMON GROVE, CA 91945
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and Mass Schedule. 466-3209

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6970 San Miguel Ave. Lemon Grove, 2 Blk W. of Mass.

Lemon Grove Assembly of God
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1800 Sweetwater Road
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Pastor Jim Reed 697-7770

Christian Science Church Services
First Church of Christ, Scientist, La Mesa
Corner of Palm and Allison, La Mesa
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Wednesday Evening Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Child Care
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LEMON GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Lake can't change HIS ballot statement

By Dave Schwab

The mayor's race in Lemon Grove early on has taken an unusual religious turn.

Councilman Craig Lake, who's opposing Councilwoman Mary Sessom to replace retiring mayor Robert Burns in March 26 city-wide elections, sought a court order to officially strike language he used in his mayoral candidates' statement filed with the city.

On Wednesday, the court ruled against Lake.

Lake, in his candidate's statement, included a testimonial from Burns vouching for Lake's qualifications. Only, Lake capitalized all the letters in two of the words in the statement.

Burns took umbrage and said that religious conservatives would share his view that only God should be referred to as HIS and HIM.

Lake said Burns allowed him to use a quote stating Burns felt Lake to be the best qualified person for the position, and adding that Burns believed the city would be safe in Lake's competent hands.

"When I did the ballot statement," said Lake, "I capitalized all three letters of (his) and (him). Bob came back and said, 'When the pronoun is completely capitalized, that generally refers to the deity of Christ.' He asked if I could change that."

"It's commonplace to capitalize every letter in your name in these statements," Lake added.

Lake told Lemon Grove city clerk Christine Taub of his dilemma and was told that the only way the ballot statement could be

changed once it was in print was to get a writ of mandate with the courts, asking a neutral third party to arbitrate the matter.

"The arbitrator would impartially determine if (textual) changes would change the meaning of the statement, or if it's just a grammatical error," Lake said. "The fear is that everybody, after reading somebody else's (candidate's) statement, could amend their statement in rebuttal."

"We want everyone on an even keel. In this case, what we're trying to do is take something out that, within the religious community, could be a little bit offensive. I felt in respect to Burns that we had to take that one shot."

Lake's case was heard by Judge Judith McConnell in downtown San Diego Wednesday.

"In this particular case it's just a friendly motion, a very simple hearing," Lake concluded.

Lake apologized for any embarrassment caused Burns or anyone else over his ballot statement.

"I sure didn't want to insult anybody by making a grammatical error that could be taken in a couple different ways," he said. "I'm very proud of Bob's confidence in me. I owed him that level of respect."

Candidates' statements are allowed to include the name, age and occupation of the candidate, as well as a brief description of no more than 200 words of the candidate's education and qualifications.

The winner of the March 26 election will become Lemon Grove's fourth mayor and the first elected directly by citizens.

Shelley pounding the pavement until March

by Dave Schwab

This is the first article in a series on four candidates running for one open position on the five-member Lemon Grove City Council. The councilmember-elect will serve a full term of four years.

Appointed Lemon Grove City Councilman Dwight Shelley, who's seeking to be returned to the council in the March 26 City Council election, says he knows what's on the mind of citizens: He's been meeting with them face-to-face.

"I've been walking precincts for two weeks," Shelley said. "I will continue to walk precincts up until the day before the election. When you walk the neighborhoods and talk to the people, you find out what their concerns are."

Shelley says he's compiling a list of citizens' concerns.

"A lot of them are interested in having roads repaired, a safer city," he said. "A lot of people in neighborhoods are becoming concerned about (automobile) speeding."

"Some of the problems the city needs to address it's already addressing — flooding, police protection, street improvements, implementing the new city general plan and landscaping in different areas, especially along the



Dwight Shelley
trolley corridor."

Shelley learned the ins and outs of city government the hard way, as a Lemon Grove planning commissioner for 10 years.

"I enjoyed being a planning commissioner, it's a really neat job," he said. "This (being on the council) is the next step. It's (community planning) very challenging, interesting and rewarding work."

Shelley's posturing himself as a populist candidate.

"I'm not a politician," he said. "I'm just an interested citizen who wants to continue to be involved."

A native of the South from Alabama and Tennessee, Shelley and his wife have lived in Lemon Grove for 25 years and raised two

daughters there. Shelley owns a welding and steel fabricating business named D & M Welding on North Avenue in Lemon Grove. He said his company does a lot of the steel work for local general contractors, schools, shopping centers and restaurants like McDonalds. Shelley's been active for years with the city's Chamber of Commerce.

It's important, said Shelley, for Lemon Grove to strike a balance in community land-use planning.

"We need to keep it a nice, desirable, little city," he said, "yet understand that we have to grow and change."

A member of Lemon Grove's Economic Task Force, Shelley stressed that it's essential for the city to maintain a business-friendly climate.

"It's an ongoing, evolving process," he said. "We have put out an information pack that goes through all the zoning — everything a business needs to know to locate in Lemon Grove."

"When we have problems with business, it's because of a breakdown of communication between businesses and the cities. As long as we keep the lines of communication open, we're going to continue to have a good business environment."

Pastor goes home again

After 21 years as a full-time preacher, Rev. Terry McCormick will return to the congregation where he began his ministry in 1974 for a special three-day Gospel Meeting, Feb. 4-7, 1996, at the Lemon Grove Church of Christ, 2515 Lemon Grove Ave.

McCormick, 43, served at the Lemon Grove church from 1974 to 1981. He moved to Texas to preach at churches in Houston from 1981 to 1984 and Abilene from 1984 to 1987.

Since April 1987, he has served as the pulpit preacher at the El Cajon Church of Christ, 1244 Sumner St.

Services for the three-day gospel meeting in Lemon Grove will be held at 9 a.m., 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Feb. 4 and at 7 p.m. on Feb. 5 and 6. The theme will be "Revive Us Again." Admission is free. No collections will be held. Signing for the deaf and free child care will be available. For more information, phone the church office at 466-3861, 466-3519 or 442-1938.

McCormick, a native of Miami, FL, holds a bachelor's degree in Bible from Harding University and a master's degree in church growth from the Southern California Graduate School of Evangelism. Terry and wife Sue have four children.

Cuyamaca ASB president quits

by Jake Christie

Cuyamaca College Associated Student Government (ASG) President Thad Luncford, resigned his position during the holidays.

David Parsons, student member of the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Governing Board, said Luncford was forced to resign his post because he had not passed one of the two classes he had taken last semester. Cuyamaca College requires that all student government members keep a certain grade point average, and the former president neglected that area.

Parsons said Luncford is now in Santa Cruz, working with the student government of Cabrillo Community College.

Luncford was a highly outspoken member of student government before becoming president. A firm believer in the "shared governance" concept, he pushed for more involvement in student government by the student body, ran several meetings

(open to the public) on various issues concerning the college and was the opposition to the previous government, headed by Mark Eskew.

The school elections of 1995 were the most interesting Cuyamaca had seen. Although both sides used huge amounts of posters and handbills, only 291 students voted out of the 5,000 on campus. After becoming president, Luncford's major contribution was to ratify a new constitution for the ASG and to put forward his plan to erect a new student center on campus.

Unfortunately, his term ended before the latter was even planned, and the former was passed by a vote of 56 out of the 107 votes cast by the general school populace.

In the wake of the resignation, Vice President Michael Newbold has taken Luncford's position, and hopes to bring the student center idea to fruition, along with remanaging the ASG's funds.

No Fish Stories

This Week Michael Grant invites readers to share their memorable, or rather, forgettable, experiences playing golf.

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Commentary

by Paul Treske

There was a general aura of wackiness on the pages of last weekend's *Union-Tribune*. Amid all of the longer and more serious stories of Siamese twin separations and State of the Union, there were smaller stories that make one wonder if the Golden State hasn't gone a bit off its rocker.

Most prominent in the lunacy parade was the proposal by several state legislators that California return to the dark ages by enacting laws allowing flogging, paddling and a reinstitution of the prison chain gang. The implications of this are so awful that it is difficult for a sane person to respond rationally. Suffice to say, the immediate public response has, thankfully, been somewhat less than overwhelming.

In much the same category is the proposed proposition that would legalize the trophy-hunting of California mountain lions. Using the occasional threatening appearance of these magnificent creatures in state parks, the hunting yahoos want an open season where any kook who can purchase a hunting license can fire wildly away at these now-protected animals and quickly bring about their oblivion. Apparently, this would be better sport than shooting tired old zoo animals at so-called hunting farms.

Reel thoughts

Dump Oscar, here are the Betties

by Betty Jo Tucker

Looking into my crystal ball, I see that many worthy performances and movies will be left off the list of 1995 Oscar nominees (to be announced on Feb. 13) again this year. Last year, remember how the Academy completely ignored Walter Matthau's terrific, whimsical portrayal of Albert Einstein in the delightfully amusing "I.Q."?

The crystal ball also predicts that my choices for the "best of 1995" will differ from the Oscar nominations as follows:

1. Best Picture. My list of five best movies includes "The American President," "The Crossing Guard," "Don Juan DeMarco," "Leaving Las Vegas" and "Smoke." The Academy will agree with me on "Leaving Las Vegas," but will complete its list with the following four box-office favorites: "Apollo 13," "Babe," "Braveheart" and "Sense and Sensibility."

2. Best Actress. It hurts to omit Minnie Driver ("Circle of Friends"), Whoopi Goldberg ("Boys on the Side"), Michelle Pfeiffer ("Dangerous Minds") and Signourney Weaver ("Copycat") from the best actress list. Nevertheless, my five finalists in this category are Annette Bening ("The American President"), Jessica Lange ("Losing Isaiah"), Susan Sarandon ("Dead Man Walking"), Elisabeth Shue ("Leaving Las Vegas") and Emma Thompson ("Sense and Sensibility").

Thompson, Sarandon and Shue will remain on the Academy list, but the other two slots will go to Nicole Kidman ("To Die For") and Meryl Streep ("Bridges of Madison County"). Lange's win last year for "Blue Sky" works against her this year, and Bening's brilliant performance might be considered too comedic to count. (Too bad! As one terminally ill actor declared, "Dying is easy. Comedy is hard.")

3. Best Actor. The best male performances of 1995 were Steve Buscemi in "Living in Oblivion," Nicolas Cage in "Leaving Las Vegas," Johnny Depp in "Don Juan DeMarco," Morgan Freeman in "Seven" and Ian McKellen in "Richard III." While recognizing Cage and McKellen, the Academy will replace my other choices with Anthony Hopkins ("Nixon"), Sean Penn ("Dead Man Walking") and John Travolta ("Get Shorty"). Buscemi, Depp and Freeman seem handicapped by appearing in off-beat movies that did not garner widespread critical acclaim.

4. Best Supporting Actor. The Academy will agree with me that Tim Roth should be nominated for creating one of the best villains ever seen on film in "Rob Roy." Parting company at this point, the Oscar nod will go to Don Cheadle ("Devil In A Blue Dress"), Ed Harris ("Apollo 13"), Brad Pitt ("Twelve Monkeys") and Kevin Spacey ("The Usual Suspects"). My choices in this category are Robert Downey Jr. and Charles Durning (both for "Home

As seen in the weekend papers

Almost as zany, but receiving serious national discourse is the latest craze for the flat tax. With gazillionaire Steve Forbes (who is rich enough to know a good thing for his group) pushing it as a single presidential issue, columnists everywhere are pontificating on it as if it were a profound notion.

Fortunately, and not unlike the innocent child in the story "The Emperor's New Clothes" who knows only the truth as he sees it, Donald Straszheim, chief economist for Merrill-Lynch, has no doubts. "The flat tax is a bad idea," he states, "whose time has not yet come and won't. It's a big tax hike for middle-income people and a big tax cut for high-income people. When the public figures that out, it will die."

Finally, on a more serious note, Sunday was the 10th anniversary of the Challenger disaster. I don't believe I have ever recovered from watching those beautiful young people being blown to bits before my eyes. Of course, subsequent revelations have informed us that serious scientific voices warning of the acute danger of that flight were overwhelmed by flacks who had too much invested in the myth of space-flight safety. One wonders if the safety lessons of Challenger have really been learned in other high-risk situations.



Johnny Depp is Don Juan DeMarco.

For The Holidays"), John Leguizamo ("To Wong Foo, Thanks For Everything, Julie Newmar") and David Morse ("The Crossing Guard").

5. Best Supporting Actress. Completely at odds with the Academy on this category, my list includes Anne Bancroft ("Home For The Holidays"), Halle Berry ("Losing Isaiah"), Mary-Louise Parker ("Boys On The Side") and Stockard Channing and Ashley Judd (both for "Smoke"). The Oscar nominees will be Joan Allen ("Nixon"), Anjelica Huston ("The Crossing Guard"), Kyra Sedgwick ("Something to Talk About"), Mira Sorvino ("Mighty Aphrodite"), and Kate Winslet ("Sense and Sensibility").

6. Best Director. In my opinion, the best directors of 1995 were Mike Figgis ("Leaving Las Vegas"), Jodie Foster ("Home For The Holidays"), Sean Penn ("The Crossing Guard"), Rob Reiner ("The American President") and Wayne Wang ("Smoke"). Only Figgis will make it to the Oscar list. The other nominees will be Mel Gibson ("Braveheart"), Ron Howard ("Apollo 13"), Ang Lee ("Sense and Sensibility") and Oliver Stone ("Nixon"). Because of the current Jane Austen mania in Hollywood, Lee seems assured a nomination, and the other directors helmed movies with themes considered more "serious" than my selections.

Although the accuracy of my crystal ball might be questionable, no one doubts that all Oscar nominees will be pleased with their special Valentine message this year. In addition to the actual nominees, numerous other actors, actresses and film makers deserve our heartfelt thanks for providing us with so many magic moments of joy, inspiration and entertainment at the movies during 1995.

Letters to the Editor

Name that hidden agenda

Grossmont School District has had many recent problems — the assessment district tax and subsequent recall threats, the Swiss Army knife expulsion, the covert meeting to discuss breaking up the district and a struggle to have EDD become part of the One-Stop Job Center.

There are several persons with hidden agendas causing problems.

It is rumored that Nadia Davies plans to run for the Grossmont School Board. She resigned her teaching job in lieu of discharge several years ago. The newspapers state that Davies received a settlement and agreed never to work for the Grossmont District again.

Maybe the five-times married, family-values Harnsberger will run.

But just think: With a majority on the Grossmont Board, conservative Christianity can be taught in the classroom. Like Vista, the parents and churches will be relieved of that responsibility. And they can get rid of those pesky women and minorities in administrative jobs — only the ones who bug them, of course.

RUTH MONROE
Lemon Grove

PG Perspectives

Leap Year

by Phillip Giannangeli

Better look before you leap! 1996 is, after all, a leap year. And it's the last one of this century. There's got to be some significance to that, but it's way beyond this mortal's capacity to fathom any of it. With that disclaimer still ringing in your ears, though, many things do come to mind when contemplating a leap year. Significant or not, here are a few.

Why? Why a leap year? It has to do with cheating. We cheat ourselves out of one quarter of a day every year. In order to make up for our thieving ways, we add those stolen quarters together and every fourth year put a full day on the calendar. That brings us celestially back in sync and allows the cheating cycle to begin all over again. And I'm sure the reason for sticking that extra day in the month of February is to make February feel like a grown-up month and not the runt of the litter.

There's another reason for adding a day to the calendar every fourth year. It goes back to a more primitive time in our history, a time of predator and prey. Bankers and lawyers needed to get an extra day every now and then to more successfully relieve us of our hard-earned resources. February 29 was perfect. Thank goodness that two out of every seven times leap year comes around, it's either a Saturday or a Sunday or we'd really be in a mess. At least twice every seven years we get two days of immunity from the evil influences of the aforementioned. The other five times, we just have to pay an extra day of service fees to profit-crazed bankers or be prepared for a legal assault from a tree-swinging attorney.

Leap year gives those born on Feb. 29 that special opportunity to be the butt of all sorts of jokes. "You're awfully big for a five-year-old. Ha, Ha." "How many dog years is that?" On a more practical level, however, those born on that extra day every fourth year must really have a great time with the government. Imagine trying to convince someone at Social Security that you want to retire even though you've only technically had 15 birthdays. But knowing the government's infinite capacity to adjust to difficult situations, I'm sure most leap-year celebrants have little difficulty.

Since leap years only come every four years and the one following this one will be in the next century, I don't think I'll spend any more time talking about them now. And for those of us at Forum Publications, leap year 1996 means just one thing anyway: five editions in February! There's definitely no time to fool around; especially so when you have an editor clamoring, "Copy, copy!"

Perhaps by the time another leap year rolls around we'll have redesigned the calendar and maybe even the clock. There won't be a need to tamper with either. I keep hearing about a movement to metric. A 10-month calendar? A 20-hour clock? Philanthropic bankers? Honest lawyers? Best not to overstate the possibilities.



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On stage 'Quilters' one of Lamplighters' best

by Paul Treske

Pieces of life. That is what the quilters call the scraps of fabric that become their art, and pieces of life describes well the vignette-like contents of "Quilters," the musical now in production at the Lamplighters Theater in La Mesa.

In a word, the show, under the masterful overall direction of Jeannette Thomas and musical direction of Alexandra Aukland, is marvelous. It is the life-and-death saga of seven pioneer women whose life milestones, individually and as a group, are marked by their quilting patterns. There is no real on-going plot, but the vignettes follow the women as they work, love, marry, give birth and, in general, struggle with the joy and pain of living.

There is no star in this carefully directed and crafted ensemble. The seven actresses — Bobbi Jordan, Linda Orr, Lee Lampard, Kendra Truett, Julie Eisenhower, Alisa Crandall and Debbie LaRocque — all sing and act with equal skill and intensity, making quilters a seamless delight to eyes and ears. Tall and lanky Ken Maynard III amiably fills the peripheral male roles.

A few of the scenes stand out as especially memorable. The "windmill" sequence, featuring Truett and Crandall, was quite touching as was Crandall's work with the poignant "Butterfly." Considerable humor was derived from the entire group in the "schoolhouse" segment as the girls discuss who has and hasn't yet experienced "the curse" of menstruation.

The single setting, designed by Dianne Truett, was wonderfully effective, especially in virtually hiding Alexandra and Jamie Auk-



"Quilters" features (left to right) Lee Lampard, Debbie LaRocque and Linda Orr.

land on piano and guitar. Their music fit the overall production so well that one was literally seldom aware of their presence. Another Aukland, Kathy, produced the show and was responsible for the highly authentic costumes.

Ginger Harris' lighting was dramatically evocative at critical

moments in the production. The magnificent keynoting quilts were designed by Christine Seebold.

Lamplighters have hit the bullseye with this production, and one hopes that that directors Thomas and Aukland and all of their actors will return in future Lamplighters Theater offerings.

Concert on symphony history set

The Grossmont Symphony Orchestra will perform a Family Concert entitled "The Story of the Orchestra," 3 p.m., Saturday at Theatre East in El Cajon.

The program, directed by Charles Ellis-MacLeod, traces the development of the symphony orchestra from the late 17th Century to the last decade of the 19th Century; from an orchestra made up of 19 musicians to an orchestra of over 70; and, from four instru-

ments to over 20.

The narrative, written by Elissa and Ellis-MacLeod, will be read by Stephen Judson. The program, which will last approximately an hour and ten minutes, includes music by Lully, Handel, Hayden, Mozart, Beethoven, Berlioz, Dvorak and Tchaikovsky.

Tickets may be obtained at the Theatre East box office, 210 E. Main St. in El Cajon, a half-hour prior to the concert.

Kumon Institute teaches kids uncommonly well

by Cynthia O'Neill

The Kumon Educational Institute at 8080 La Mesa Blvd., Suite 115, is producing miracle stories of children who used to fuss and frown at math. The main miracle worker is Saeko Jalbuna. The school has been in operation for a year and a half.

Jalbuna welcomes parents and student to come to her grand opening of the Reading Program on Feb. 8, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

"There will be free registration and free diagnostic tests to determine the child's level," she said.

On that day, parents who have been eagerly waiting for the reading program will meet other parents whose children are already growing academically in leaps and bounds.

One of those parents is Cindy Hsu. She moved from Taiwan 17 years ago, and still places much value on the methods of mathematics and language teaching there. With her two sons, she has found that American schools don't teach math to her satisfaction.

To help her 11- and 13-year-old sons, starting eight months ago, she has brought them twice a week to the Kumon Educational Institute in La Mesa. Now, says Hsu, her youngest is far ahead of the others in his class, in the GATE program.

Jalbuna attributes the phenomenal success of the program to its technique borne of a man in Japan in 1951.

Toru Kumon, a 20-year veteran high school math teacher, could not believe it when his son received poor grades in his 2nd grade math test. Fueled both by his wife's panic and his own concern, he set to work. Thinking about what high school students need to know in order to succeed in math, he designed special worksheets for his son.

Four years later, Kumon's son

solved high school math problems when he was barely a teenager himself.

Neighbors asked to participate in the program. In 1958, the Kumon Educational Institute was formally established.

"Kumon doesn't go by grade level," Jalbuna said. "In other words, when a student comes in we find out at what level he is and start from there. It's a much safer learning environment because the student doesn't feel anxious."

The students do homework every day.

Nine-year-old Adam Verdon smiled really big when asked how he felt upon starting at Kumon.

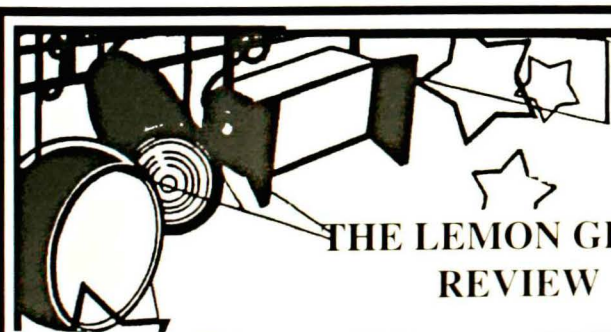
"Well, it was last July when I first came, my mom was getting frustrated with me. She even gave me math flash cards for my birthday," he said, laughing. "When I first started here, I kind of wanted to, and kind of not. But now I've gone up almost three levels in math."

His friend Vin Phan, 11 years old, also said he hadn't been so great at math.

"My mom had a friend that had a daughter come here, and she decided to try it. Now I am one of the fastest in math at school. They teach math good here," he said.

Students and parents will be greeted warmly by Jalbuna at the reading program's grand opening. She loves her job; it shows in the way she gives comforting pats on the children's shoulders and talks amiably with the parents who sometimes stay to read in the reception area during the children's learning session.

"It's fun to teach the kids, because they go to show their parents their good grades. They're all good kids," said Jalbuna. At the grand opening on Feb. 8, parents may register their children in both math and reading classes.



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REVIEW

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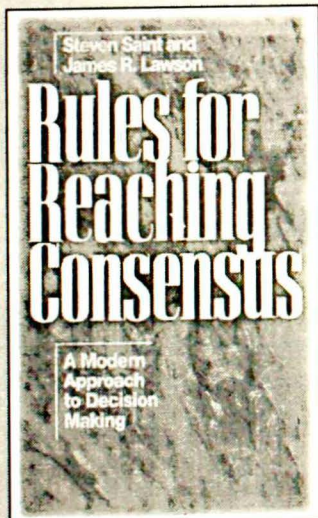
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Red Cross offers disaster, health and safety classes in February

The San Diego/Imperial Counties Chapter of the American Red Cross is offering the following classes in Disaster Services and Health & Safety at the East County Service Center, 1283 East Main St., #101, El Cajon. To register or obtain more information, contact the service center at 440-7813.

Health & Safety Courses

Community CPR

Recognizing an emergency and overcoming the reluctance to act; identifying and caring for breathing and cardiac emergencies for adults, infants and children; heart disease prevention and injury prevention. Cost: \$34.

Feb. 6 (Tues) 6-10 p.m. and Feb. 8 (Thurs) 6-8:30 p.m.

Feb. 14 (Wed) 6-10 p.m. and Feb. 21 (Wed) 6-8:30 p.m.

Feb. 28 (Wed) 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Community First Aid and Safety Challenge Exam

Cost: \$10

Feb. 7 (Wed) 5 p.m.

Feb. 20 (Tues) 10 a.m.

Standard First Aid

Recognizing an emergency and overcoming the reluctance to act; identifying and caring for breathing and cardiac emergencies for adults; recognizing and caring for life-threatening bleeding, sudden illness and injuries. Cost: \$34.

Feb. 5 (Mon) 6-10 p.m. and Feb. 7 (Wed) 6-9 p.m.

Feb. 13 (Tues) 6-10 p.m. and

Feb. 20 (Tues) 6-9 p.m.

Feb. 15 (Thurs) 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Feb. 27 (Tues) 6-10 p.m. and Feb. 29 (Thurs) 6-9 p.m.

Community First Aid & Safety

9 1/2 hours. Cost: \$48. Includes text, printed materials, training equipment and certification. Content: Recognizing an emergency and overcoming the reluctance to act; identifying and caring for breathing and cardiac emergencies for adults, infants and children; recognizing and caring for life-threatening bleeding, sudden illness and injuries. Certification: CPR valid for one year and Community First Aid and Safety valid for three years. Meets OSHA requirements.

Feb. 12 (Mon) 6-10 p.m. and Feb. 13 (Wed) 6-8:30 p.m. and Feb. 21 (Wed) 6-9 p.m.

Feb. 27 (Tues) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. and Feb. 29 (Thurs) 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

CPR for the Professional Rescuer

Recognizing and caring for breathing and cardiac emergencies, two rescuer CPR, use of a resuscitation mask and bag-valve mask. Cost: \$48.

Feb. 3 (Sat) 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

CPR for the Professional Rescuer Challenge Exam

Cost: \$10

Feb. 7 (Wed) 5 p.m.

BAT (Basic Aid Training)

This course is designed to instruct children ages 8 to 10 with basic first aid skills, health information and injury prevention

information. Cost: \$10.

Feb. 17 (Sat) 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and Feb. 24 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Babysitting

Course covers the responsibilities of a babysitter, child care, basic first aid, safety precautions and accident prevention. Cost: \$15.

Feb. 3 (Sat) 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and Feb. 10 (Sat) 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

California Child Care Course

This course teaches how to prevent injuries to infants and children, provide pediatric first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), how to prevent infectious diseases, care for ill children, and required immunizations. Cost: \$75.

Feb. 10 (Sat) 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Disaster Services Courses

Disaster Home Preparedness

Promotes family awareness and disaster response to earthquake and other disaster situations. Topics include ways to prevent injuries, developing a family disaster plan and preparing the home before a disaster strikes. Cost: Free.

Feb. 15 (Thurs) 6-7 p.m.

Mass Care Mod 1

The purpose of this training is to prepare staff to provide immediate identifiable mass care services such as: canteen, meal service, sheltering, and bulk distribution of supplies. Learn local protocols and national policies. Cost: Free.

Feb. 28 (Mon) 6-10 p.m.

College Notes

Teikyo Post has announced the extension of its Middle Income Family (MIF) grant program to include one new Lemon Grove-area student, attending Teikyo Post for the Fall, 1996 term. The total of this grant could reach \$20,000.

"Our Middle Income Family grant program has struck a positive chord with the general public," stated Dr. Phyllis C. DeLeo, president of Teikyo Post. "Therefore, we have added a zero-interest loan of up to \$5,000 per year for one new Lemon Grove-area full-time, undergraduate, day, middle income student starting their college studies at Teikyo Post in the Fall of 1996. If that student graduates with a bachelor's degree within four years, Teikyo Post will forgive that MIF loan and those monies become a grant, free and clear. We feel that middle income families could use a grant of up to \$20,000 for their sons' or daughters' education," concluded Dr. DeLeo.

Students who wish to apply for a MIF grant should contact the

University immediately through the Internet at Teikyo Post's World Wide Web home page. The Web address is:

www.teikyopost.edu

Students also can contact Teikyo Post through e-mail. The e-mail address is:

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Teikyo Post enrolls students from 35 foreign countries and across the United States. Priding itself on providing a "global education without prejudice," the university awards more than \$1 million in scholarship and financial aid to deserving students each year.

Celebrating 105 years of excellence, Teikyo Post is a distinctive international business and liberal arts university. Teikyo Post's curriculum offers students the opportunity to experience inter-cultural and international environments. The 60 acre, suburban, hilltop campus is located in Waterbury, Connecticut, only 30 minutes from Hartford, 90 minutes from New York City and 2 hours from Boston.

Barbershop singers spread love and harmony for Valentine's

Looking for something different and unique in the way of a Valentine greeting for the object of your affections this year?

How about hiring a real live Barbershop quartet to deliver a nice greeting card, a lovely rose and a couple of romantic songs in person at the home or office of the one you love?

Here's how it works: Several barbershop quartets from among the members of San Diego's famous Sun Harbor Barbershop Harmony Chorus will be available from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 12, 13 and 14 (Valentine's Day) to fill your order.

Simply call the "Harmony Heartline," 445-6645 and leave

your day and night phone number so that the "Heartline Dispatcher" can return your call to obtain the name, location and desired date and time of delivery of your greeting and arrange for payment of the \$30 service fee involved.

"It's really that simple and that sentimental," said Rod Deakers, recently installed President of the San Diego SPEBSQSA Chapter.

Incidentally, the chapter is celebrating this year the Golden Anniversary of its founding on June 14, 1946 and is planning special observances all year long, including its 48th annual show on April 27, during International Barbershop Harmony Month, and a special Founders Day Banquet on June 14.

Grossmont

wound up saving a lot of money."

And while revenues were down in 1995, the hospital still brought in \$140 million.

Even with a \$4 million loss, Stieringer said, Grossmont still performed better than many other hospitals in San Diego County.

Spindler said most of the red ink at Grossmont can be attributed to asset depreciation, which means the hospital still had a positive cash flow. In the last five years, Grossmont's cash reserves, according to Spindler, have jumped from \$12 million to \$50 million.

"So the cash flow was positive," Spindler said. "But to be honest with you, the financial performance at Grossmont was not what we wanted last year."

Poor financial news has merged detractors calling for the immediate dismissal of Sharp as a partner.

"The hospital is going broke," said Dr. Brendan Daly, a retired physician who has opposed the merger from the beginning. "They must break the lease in order to salvage the hospital. That's the only hope for Grossmont. They must break the lease and let the people of the district rebuild it."

If the attorneys find, however, that Sharp's new business deal does create a conflict of interest and jeopardizes the financial health of Grossmont, there is some sentiment on the hospital district board to break the lease. Grossmont could then either try to go it alone, affiliate with another hospital group, such as Scripps or Mercy, or seek an alliance with the four other publicly owned hospitals in San Diego County.

Stieringer said he is open to all of those options. But Hurst is cool to the idea of having Grossmont go it alone.

"The worst option is to be by ourselves and unaffiliated," Hurst said. "We won't get the contracts (with insurance companies) that go to large hospitals. If we found ourselves all by ourselves in East County without access to the contracts, the people who pay taxes for the hospital wouldn't be able to use it. They would have to go where their insurer told them to go."

Next week the Grossmont board will meet in closed session with Sharp executives to discuss the future of the hospital. Stieringer said he will be direct. He wants to know what Sharp's intentions are toward Grossmont.

"Our board is not going to sit idly by," said Stieringer. "We have all kinds of options."

Continued from page 1

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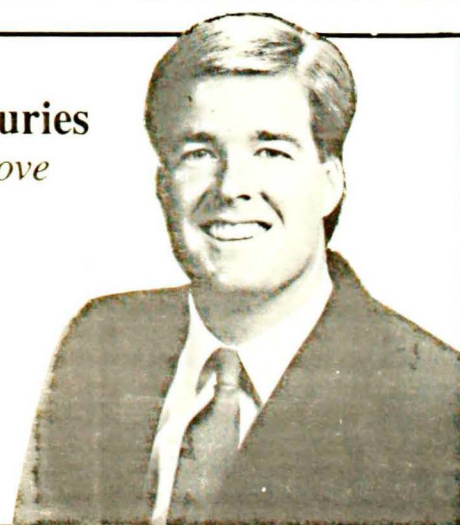
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